FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 MARCH 1984

Israel

After 11 hours of debate, the Knesset decided by 61 votes to 58 to adopt the Alignment, TAMI, and Hadash bills calling for the dissolution of the Knesset and early elections, Jerusalem radio reported. The bills were transferred to the Knesset Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee which will consolidate them into a draft law and determine the election date, the radio noted. While Likud MK Ehud Olmert said in a Jerusalem television interview that September would be the most "reasonable" time to hold elections, Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres told the Knesset that they should be in May or June because a lengthy electoral campaign would waste money, postpone important economic decisions, and allow the government to promote a "sham election economy." In his speech, broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Peres also affirmed the Alignment's desire to establish a government composed of all forces supporting a "national recovery scheme" and which will not depend on small factions whose bargaining power exceeds their size.

Lebanon

Security Situation — The Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), in a statement broadcast by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio, said the recent military action against Al-Murabitun was "inevitable" in order to return Beirut to its "honest" people and tonormalize the security situation "which deteriorated recently in West Beirut." Without mentioning Al-Murabitun by name, the statement deplored those who were planning among other things to cause "security disturbances," collect protection money, reopen armed party offices, rally armed men, kidnap Christians, and stir sectarian unrest. A PSP delegation subsequently briefed Shaykh Hasan Khalid, mufti of the Lebanese Republic, on these "plots" and on "the intention to infiltrate some elements that have harmed Beirut in the past," according to a PSP source cited by the radio. The PSP agreed to the mufti's demand that "armed manifestations" be removed shortly in order to allow the internal security forces to assume security responsibilities, the source added. In remarks after the meeting, reported by Beirut radio, the mufti confirmed the agreement to end all armed activity on the streets but called for the return of property seized from Al-Murabitun. As for the latter's clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio, which currently is unheard, the mufti said its situation is being studied.

Meanwhile, PSP and Amal gunmen took over all the Al-Murabitun positions in West Beirut and also seized offices belonging to the Arab Socialist Union, the Communist Action Organization, and the Syrian Social Nationalist Party, according to the Voice of Lebanon. The PSP claimed to have captured some 200 Al-Murabitun members on 22 March, the radio said, but remaining Al-Murabitun gunmen ambushed a PSP vehicle the following day. The Voice of Lebanon revised its estimates of the casualties in the fighting downward to "scores" of dead and wounded and, in a Radio Monte Carlo interview, former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam spoke only of "two or three killed and some wounded."

In other security developments, clashes continued across the contact lines in and around Beirut, according to the Voice of Lebanon and the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon.

Al-Jumayyil on U.S., Dialogue — President Amin al-Jumayyil told journalists in remarks reported by Beirut radio that the United States "tricked him by making him believe that it had obtained a Syrian pledge to adhere to the 17 May agreement and to withdraw the Syrian forces." Commenting on the outcome of the Lausanne conference in a press interview cited by the Voice of Lebanon, Al-Jumayyil said future meetings of the National Dialogue Conference will involve "new faces and mentalities."

Syria

Although Jerusalem radio's Arabic service cited a London press report that President Hafiz al-Asad suffered a second heart attack and is unconscious, Damascus radio reported that Al-Asad held talks with visiting French philosopher Roger Garaudy.

Arab-U.S. Relations

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak held talks in Cairo with U.S. presidential envoy Donald Rumsfeld, MENA reported. Meanwhile, an Amman radio commentary said that President Reagan's decision to withdraw his plan to supply Jordan and Saudi Arabia with Stinger missiles signals the United States' "final relinquishment" of its Arab friends and its "absolute commitment" to the Israeli side.

Afghanistan

The DRA's High Council of Ulema, in a statement broadcast by Kabul radio, blamed "the servants of America" for a 21 March explosion in a Kabul mosque that killed four people and injured seven others. In response to the bombing, "about 100,000" people participated in a protest march to the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, the radio reported. Meanwhile, a DRA Foreign Ministry statement carried by BAKHTAR denounced President Reagan's "fabricated and instigatory statement on the so-called Afghanistan Day."

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4 Die, 7 Injured in Kabul Mosque Explosion
LD221823 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Announcement by High Council of Ulema and Religious Leaders of Democratic Republic of Afghanistan]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The criminal hands of the false claiments and defenders of American-type Islam, shortly after the greatest gathering of ulema and patriotic religious leaders in the history of the country was held, were again stained with the pure blood of the faithful to Almighty God. The servants of America, these non-Muslim rebels, in a hateful crime, martyred four noble ulemas who were the servants of the faith of Prophet Mohammad — peace be upon him and his family.

An explosion took place inside the Polytechnic Mosque [as heard], place of prayer for Muslims and the house of God, on the same day Ronald Reagan, head of international intimidators and terrorists, declared it a so-called day of mourning for the American type of Islam in Afghanistan.

Reagan and his murderous collaborators, reactionaries, and hegemonists are, with all their power, bent on cleansing the planet Earth of Islam, except for the American type of Islamic worship, the one which remains in the service of the interests of the blood-sucking imperialists and except for those masked servants who, instead of praying to Almighty God, pray to the door of America and who, instead of facing Kaa'ba, turn their face to the tyranny of the White House.

It is obvious why the war-mongering imperialists, who are hostile to the people of God, shed the blood of Muslims in Palestine by the hands of the Zionist butchers and shed the blood of Muslims in Lebanon with guns and bombers.

The puppets of America in Pakistan have transformed the land of Muslims into a great prison and place of torture for them. It is the United States and the blood-letting Zionists who have usurped the holy place of the Muslims, Jerusalem, and have either set it on fire or humiliated it. It is the Israeli Zionists and their American backers who shed the blood of thousands of Palestinian old men, women, children, and youths in Sabra and Shatilla. It is the U.S. AWACS which, with their American infidels, fly over the sacred airspace of Kaa'ba and the pure tomb of the great prophet of Islam, Mohammed — peace be upon him and his family.

God curses those who lie, particularly those who falsely portray themselves and who, in practice, work against Islam and Muslims for imperialist interests, engaged in the massacre of the rightful followers of the path of God and of his messenger so as not to let Muslims liberate themselves from the captivity of centuries or propogate the orders of God so as to create a society of justice and reason in their homelands.

This is not the first time that in the sacred Islamic land of Afghanistan, whose people have chosen the path of liberation from captivity and the yoke of colonialists and plunderers with the national-democratic April Revolution, the servants of imperialism and criminal rebels have attacked mosques, burned the Holy Koran, and killed religious leaders while they pray to God.

Last evening's explosion in the Polytechnic Mosque,in which four people who were performing prayers were martyred and another seven injured, had a special meaning for these enemies of Islam and Muslims, these enemies of the faith of Heaven and God. It took place on the same day as the international conspiracy held under the name of so-called Afghanistan day.

The boss of the murderers in the White House had intended to celebrate this day by setting fire to the house of God. We ask Almighty God for refuge from such a big sin, from such an obvious blasphemy, and from such blatant hostility to the sacred religion of Islam! Almighty God says: Those who deliberately kill a faithful person will have a place in the abyss of hell. [Koranic verse]

The Washington bosses express beast-like revenge against every Muslim who is not in imperialist slavery and not at the service of the interests of these burners of civilizations and against any mosque and place of worship not within the limits of the arrogant sway of the U.S. forces or of their slaves.

This incident has provoked the unending indignation and profound hatred of our Muslim people. The Council of Ulema and Religious Leaders of the DRA informs the noble and patriotic Muslims of the country and of the world of this incident. Once again, their attention is turned to this fact that the false claimants of Islam — the seditious rebels whose hands are stained with the blood of thousands of innocent Muslims of our Islamic country; those criminals who have sold themselves to America and the English; these primary enemies of Islam and the Muslims of the world; thieves, plunderers, and highway robbers who have covered their faces under the mask of Islam and kill ulema, the servants of the faith of the Prophet Mohammad, peace be upon him and his family — burn mosques or destroy them with grenades, set fire to the sacred book of God, and commit thousands of other unforgiveable crimes. Who are they?

We ulema and religious leaders of the DRA, who met in the conference of the Council of the DRA Ulema and Religious Leaders, ask you Muslim compatriots and you people of the world to see with receiving heart and open eyes what shameful daring with which these savage rebels, through the instigation of their infidel masters, attack the sacred places of Islam on the pretense of defending Islam

Religious tradition and the Koran very clearly state that the defense of the national democratic revolution and the defense of the homeland is the sacred duty of all Muslims; those who encroach on Afghanistan and disrupt the peaceful life of our people are taghi and baghi [rebellious against God] and jihad against them is the sacred duty of every Muslim of our homeland.

Meeting Protests Mosque 'Crime,' Honors Dead

LD222222 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Counterrevolutionaries — these sold-out, irreligious, and faithless servants — by planting a bomb last night in the Polytechnic Grand Mosque, have removed their mask and displayed their savage hostility against Islam and the Muslim people of the homeland. The resulting explosion martyred four of the noble ulema, while another seven ulema and clergy were injured.

This incident took place at 1820 yesterday when a number of esteemed ulema and religious clergy were engaged in offering prayers to God in front of the house of God's arch in the presence of the Holy Koran.

As a result of this satanic and treacherous crime of the counterrevolutionaries, Sohbat Khan, son of 'Aref Khan, inhabitant of Gardeyz, Paktia Province; (Mohmoud), son of Abdollah Jan, inhabitant of (Ahmadzai Rod), Paktia Province; and (Fyz Mohammad), inhabitant of Bamian, who were learned ulema and respected clergy, were martyred — "We are for God and we are returning to him."

The Islamic Affairs Department this afternoon organized a protest meeting in the courtyard of the Polytechnic Grand Mosque to condemn this horrible and satanic crime of the rebels and to pay respect to the pure souls of the noble martyred ulema. The meeting was attended by a large number of ulema and clergy, preachers and mosque imams, members of the Islamic Affairs Department and members of the DRA High Council of Ulema and Clergy, and toilers of Kabul's 5th Ward.

Bareq Shafi'i, first deputy chairman of the NFF Central Council, expressed profound sorrow on behalf of the PDPA, the DRA Governemnt, NFF, and Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, to the country's ulema and clergy on this painful incident.

BAKHTAR Account

LD230829 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Kabul, March 22, BAKHTAR — The Department of Islamic Affairs of the DRA organized a protest meeting here today strongly denouncing the blowing up of the mosque by the counter-revolution. As a result of this crime 4 worshippers were martyred and 12 others wounded.

Mawlawi Hojjat, general president of Islamic affairs of the DRA,and a number of other clergymen expressed their deep indignation on this heinous crime committed by the miscreants at the behest of the U.S. imperialism. They said that the martyrdom of these four clergymen have evoked ever-further their firm determination in annihlating these counter-revolutionary elements.

They also issued a resolution in which they warned the U.S. imperialism that their devilish conspiracies against the DRA are doomed to complete defeat.

The blowing up of a mosque in Kabul have [as received] been strongly denounced by the clergymen and religious leaders of the DRA in a declaration issued here today. They say that it is not the first time that the hirelings of imperialism attack on the mosques of the Moslem people of Afghanistan who freed themselves from the clutches of the decadent, oppressive and exploitative feudal and monarchical regimes of the past through their national democratic April Revolution.

The declaration points out that this incident, the declaration stressed, [as received] takes place right one day after the international conspiracy of the so-called "Day of Afghanistan" was marked by the United States. The rulers of White House shamefully wanted to mark this day with setting to fire the house of God.

100,000 March to U.S. Embassy To Protest Policy

LD222049 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Today on behalf of the people of the country, in their great march and glorious meeting in front of the U.S. Embassy, the toilers of Kabul City expressed their unlimited anger, repulsion, and hatred toward the adventurist policy of Reagan, this son of international terrorism, and his statement yesterday about our free, independent, and proud country.

In continuation of his shameless interference in the internal affairs of our revolutionary country, Afghanistan, Reagan,the U.S. President, last night also made an arrogant speech about the victorious and invincible revolution of Afghanistan and once again revealed the open interference of the criminal U.S. imperialism in the internal affairs of our revolutionary country, the risen Afghanistan, and the antagonism and hostility of this ringleader of international terrorism toward the revolution and our free-born people.

The BIA correspondent reports that at noon today about 100,000 of our country's toilers — including ulema, clergy, members of the social organizations, members of the NFF [National Fatherland Front], workers and personnel of the industrial and productive enterprises, peasants, teachers and pupils, and other toilers — have organized a huge and great march and expressed their profound repulsion and hatred concerning the shameless interference of international imperialism led by the U.S. imperialism and the person of Reagan.

The marchers gathered in front of the building of the PDPA Central Committee at around 1200 and after listening to brief speeches by the deputy secretary of the Kabul City party committee and Mawlawi Mohammad Salem 'Almi, member of the NFF Central Council, on blatant and open interference of international imperialism under the patronage of U.S. imperialism, about murder killing, terrorism, sabotage, and other terrorist and counterrevolutionary actions which have been carried out in our free and independent Afghanistan by their agents, the marchers continued their huge and grand protest march up to the U.S. Embassy.

The BIA correspondent adds that the participants of this glorious march, with revolutionary enthusiasm and patriotic feelings, carrying hundreds of placards displaying slogans against the oppressive policy of U.S. imperialism and photos of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, continuously chanted: Death to the aggressive U.S. imperialism; Death to Reagan, this ringleader of international terrorism; Death to reaction, Zionism, and imperialism; Cut the hand of U.S. imperialism from revolutionary Afghanistan; Death to international warmongers; Death to counterrevolutionaries, these mercenaries of international imperialism; Death to counterrevolutionaries, these enemies of our religion and homeland; Death to militarists of Pakistan — and dozens of other slogans.

The participants of this grand march stopped in front of the U.S. Embassy and held their protest meeting.

At this meeting, two of the participants and Mawlawi 'Abdol Wali Hojjat, head of the DRA Islamic Affairs Department, spoke about the warmongering and adventurist policy of the United States and vigorously condemned the blatant and open interference of international imperialism led by U.S. imperialism.

The head of the Islamic Affairs Department said: Mr Reagan: During the past years, you have deceived the people through propaganda and [word indistinct] in mass media that in Afghanistan the Islamic faith and religion is in danger, however, you should know that during this period the people of Afghanistan have recognized the ugly face and evil nature of your hue and cry. The party and the revolutionary Government of Afghanistan are not only not against the sacred religion of Islam and traditions of the people, but are the guardians and defenders of traditions and religion of the people and have profound respect for the sacred religion of Islam.

The deputy minister of the Ministry of Higher and Vocational Education then spoke about the crime the servants of imperialism committed yesterday evening, which resulted in the martyrdom of four noble religious clergy and denounced their evil action carried out on the instructions of the U.S. imperialism.

BAKHTAR Account

LD230839 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Kabul, March 22, BAKHTAR — About one hundred thousand persons participated in a protest march held here today. The marchers expressed their deep wrath and indignation over the shameful statement made by the U.S. President Reagan last night against the independent country of Afghanistan.

President Reagan again made an ignominous speech against the victorious and irreversible April revolution of the DRA and once again declared his plans for open intervention of U.S. imperialism in the internal affairs of the country.

The marchers converged in front of the U.S. embassy. They shouted slogans like: "Down with imperialist-warmongers" "Reagan, take your hands off revolutionary Afghanistan" and also expressed their strong condemnation against Reagan's statement and the U.S. policy against the DRA.

Speaking at the meeting held in front of the U.S. Embassy, Mawlawi Abdol Wali Hojjat, general president of Islamic Affairs Department, said that the dirty face of Reagan was known to the people of Afghanistan in the past four years. The party and state of Afghanistan are not only not opposed to the sacred religion of Islam but pay deep respect to it by all means. He added that the recently-concluded jirgah of religious scholars and clergymen with the participation of 700 religious leaders from all over the country was witness to this fact.

The citizens of Kabul City issued a resolution in this connection. The resolution says that the rulers of White House do not have the right to speak on behalf of their own people let alone on behalf of the Afghan people, since they are in fact representatives of imperialist monopolies only.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Reagan Remarks

LD230736 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0506 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Kabul, March 22, BAKHTAR — Following is the text of the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DRA:

U.S. President, Ronald Reagan made another provocative and slanderous statement on March 21 about the so-called "day of Afghanistan" which has for some years been marked by the U.S. administration in order to intensify the psychological and provocative war against the DRA.

It is for the almost six years last that the enemies of the people of Afghanistan are desperately striving to stop the victorious march of the revolution in Afghanistan by intensifying the armed aggression and the propaganda war against the DRA in which the United States plays a major role.

The hirelings of imperialism and their masters who are angered because all their hostile efforts have been foiled by the people and the heroic Armed Forces of the DRA. [sentence as received] These hirelings are striving in vain to present as worthless the progressive socio-economic transformations which have taken place in Afghanistan and to distort the realities of the situation around Afghanistan. Simultaneously, they attempt to portray the mercenary bandits who are engaged in homicide, plunder and destruction in Afghanistan as the fighters for the cause of freedom and independence.

The pronouncements of the U.S. president on this score have nothing new about them. Yet it is surprising to see as to how great a demagogic and deceitful effort is made by Reagan to cover the crimes of a handful of executioners and tyrants masquerading as "mujahidin" and the "fighters for the cause of freedom."

The only thing accomplished by Reagan was proving once again that the aggressive U.S. imperialism which has elevated international terrorism to the level of state policy is the real organiser and director of the undeclared war against Afghanistan.

By profounding once again the reactionary propagandistic claim for allegedly desiring to ensure a life in conditions of independence and freedom for the people of Afghanistan and their right to determine their destiny in which the presence of the limited Soviet contingents in Afghanistan is allegedly an obstruction, Reagan once again resorted to the distortion of the existing realities. But this out-worn gimmick of U.S. president cannot delude anyone. It is known to all that this [as received] limited Soviet contingents have been invited by the legal government of the DRA in order to help our people for defending their freedom and independence against the external dangers and aggressions and against attempts for reimposing on the country a system suitable to imperialism and reaction.

In reality the object of the U.S. administration in raising this hullaballo about the so-called Afghanistan problem using all possible means is to divert the attention of the people of the world and the USA from her aggressive and adventurist policy and neutralize the wave of legitimate protests of world people against U.S. occupation of Grenada, aggression and shelling on the innocent people of Lebanon, armed provocations against Nicaragua, Cuba and other independent countries of the world.

Another aim pursued by this hue and cry about the so-called Afghanistan problem and other similar pretexts is to justify U.S. military preparations and war provocations in the Gulf region for usurping its natural resources.

In regard to the demagogic pronouncements of U.S. president abowt supporting the peaceful solution of the situation around Afghanistan it should be said that such pronouncements not only are in complete discord with the practical measures taken by the USA and the CIA activities in arming and financing the counter-revolution, but are refuted by the latest statements of the U.S. secretary of state himself on the U.S. support to Afghan counter-revolution.

The U.S. administration is sparing no efforts to create obstacles on the eve of the visit of the representative of the UN secretary general Diego Cordovez to this region for making efforts to ensure continuation of talks for a political solution of the situation around Afghanistan. The U.S. administration is trying by bringing pressure to bear on Pakistan, to adversely affect the atmosphere of talks.

Reagan encourages the savage and uncultured counter-revolutionaries with such statements to intensify their terroristic and subversive acts against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. The vivid testimony to this fact is the destruction of the Islamic mosques and the murder of outstanding spiritual figures of our country by these mercenary bandits.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan resolutely condemns the statement delivered by President Reagan as a brazen interference in the internal affairs of independent, democratic and non-aligned Afghanistan aimed at exacerbation of the situation in the region and outside it.

The Afghan people shall resolutely defend the gains of the revolution and will never permit anybody to create hurdles in the way of their revolutionary work and struggle for creating a new society in conformity with revolutionary ideals of the working peoples of our country.

As was said by Babrak Karmal, the general secretary of the PDPA CC and the president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA on the eve of the Afghan new year,"Despite the intensification of the undeclared imperialist war against our revolutionary country, and in spite of maniacal attempts of these forces for impeding the process of revolutionary transformations in our country, our people are determined to continue the realisation of democratic changes in the interests of the working people under the leadership of the PDPA and for a prosperous future.

Gandhi Protests Allegations of Zia Plot Link

BK231556 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Addressing a crowded press conference at the Hyderabad airport, Mrs Gandhi said our country has to be prepared for any eventuality. She strongly protested against allegations of Indian involvement in the plot against the Pakistan president, General Zia. Describing it as a false charge, she said that India will never indulge in such activities.

About Punjab, she said the present situation is very delicate. Referring to opposition parties, she said they have no common policy and only a negative approach is bringing them together.

Army, Navy Personnel Assist at Ports

BK230314 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Army and Navy personnel have been pressed into service at Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, and Cochin ports as the port and dock workers' strike entered the 8th day today. In Bombay, two more vessels were berthed yesterday.

The chairman of the Bombay Port Trust, Mr Utpal, told newsmen that unloading of cargo will begin immediately. The loading of coal at Tuticorin port has also begun.

Earlier, the trade union leaders responded favorably to a request for unloading of coal as it was urgently required for the thermal power plant there.

An official spokesman of the Ministry of Shipping and Transport said loading and unloading of petroleum have been resumed at most of the ports with the help of the Indian Navy.

Agency reports say port and dock workers in Bombay have decided to exempt vessels carrying edible oil from the purview of the strike call.

The shipping and transport minister, Mr Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy, announced in the Lok Sabha yesterday that negotiations with representatives of the striking port and dock workers will be resumed soon. Earlier, the president of the All-India Port and Dock Workers' Federation, Mr Kulkarni, said if invited, he is willing to resume the negotiations.

Spokesman Says No Training Camps for Terrorists

BK221252 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] New Delhi has denied that there are any terrorists or training camps in Tamil Nadu or elsewhere in India. An official spokesman said today that it is not India's policy to permit or encourage or promote terrorism. India has no intention of supporting disruption, violence, or secession anywhere in the world, most of all in our neighboring country.

Rao on Activities of Kashmir Liberation Front

BK230931 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] The Rajya Sabha was told today that the government is watching the extremist activities of the so-called Kashmir Liberation Front. The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, told the house that the front has its branches in Pakistan, Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, Britain and the United States, and a few other countries. He said on certain occasions the front held demonstrations in front of Indian diplomatic missions, indulged in arson, and made threats against Indian diplomatic personnel and dignataries. The hijacking incidents of the Indian Airlines aircraft in 1971 and 1976 were also masterminded and executed by the front.

Home Ministry Annual Report Cited

BK230349 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] The Home Ministry says that the general law and order situation in the country remained under control during 1983-84, except for the happenings in Punjab. In its annual report, the ministry says that the situation in Punjab remains visited because of the activities of some extremist elements. It reaffirmed that the government is willing to consider favorably any solution of the problem that could be acceptable to all concerned.

The report stresses that the situation in Punjab has been causing serious concern to the government. Referring to the communal situation, the report says that it remained generally peaceful, except for clashes at Hyderabad.

The situation in the northeastern region remained under constant review, and a number of steps were taken to tackle the problem of illegal migrants across the borders.

General Assumes Joint Chiefs of Staff Post

BK220931 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] General Rahimuddin Khan assumed the chairmanship of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee in Rawalpindi this morning. Previously, he was the governor of Baluchistan.

General K.M. Arif, who was previously the chief of staff to the president, assumed the post of the vice chief of Army Staff in Rawalpindi this morning.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant General Sardar Farooq Shaukat Khan Lodi took the oath of office of governor of Baluchistan at a simple and impressive ceremony in Quetta this morning. The acting chief justice of the Baluchistan high court administered the oath of office. The ceremony was attended by Baluchistan high court judges, members of the Federal Advisory Council, senior officials, and the elite of the city.

Ministry Announces Promotion of Navy Chief

BK211516 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] The Federal Defense Ministry announced in Rawalpindi today that Chief of the Navy Vice Admiral Tariq Kamal Khan has been promoted to the rank of admiral effective tomorrow. He assumed the Pakistan Navy's command on 22 March last year.

Paper Asks 'Gradual' Implementation of Zia Plan

GF201447 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 14 Mar 84 p 3

[Editorial: "Politics and Elections — Gradual and Progressive Modus Operandi"]

[Excerpts] Addressing a mammoth gathering in Peshawar, President Ziaul Haq mentioned 10-12 points vis-a-vis the system of government, elections, and politics, and no perceptive Pakistani can oppose them in essence.

As far as the Islamization process is concerned, the performance of the present government over the past 6 years is not a secret, (even its positive and negative aspects). What is important is that the president is insisting on the implementation of the Islamic system by means of an Islamic modus operandi. He has begun delineating and specifying his ideas on the Islamic shari'a and plans to continue doing so. But a basic consideration is what does he want to do himself for the country and the nation; what path does he want them to follow?

It is a fact that the present government's viewpoint is totally opposite that of the former regime; it insists on an ideological stand in politics, economy, and all affairs. But during the past 6-7 years it has created a certain impression in the minds of the people. Therefore, the fear is not unfounded that, instead of encompassing all aspects of national life, attempts are being made to Islamize only politics and elections at one stroke and to make them conform to the Islamic shari'a. If this is done, then despite all lofty objectives and noble intentions, the present society's standard of thought and deed may not be able to harmonize with it. The Army will, for all practical purposes, become a body for the purging and purification [of society] and will begin to consider itself the paragon of all virtues and become the real ruler. Thus, its results and repercussions will not be those which the president presented as his concept of the Islamic shari'a at the Peshawar public meeting.

Hence from a practical point of view, it would be preferable to implement a gradual and progressive modus operandi in politics and elections instead of a radical or revolutionary approach. The process of reformation should be carried out in view of the moral weaknesses of society.

NWFP Governor Deplores Student Agitation

GF230853 Karachi DAWN in English 18 Mar 84 p 10

[Text] Peshawar, March 17 — The NWFP Governor Lt. Gen Fazle Haq on Saturday deplored the current wave of agitation, as a reaction against the ban on students unions and said that the government would not be intimidated by such negative tactics.

In his opening address at the inaugural session of the reconstituted provincial council's 3-day proceedings here, the governor reiterated that the government decision to ban the students unions was irrevocable. "The government will neither be cowed down by the agitation, nor will it put the future of the younger generation in jeopardy for cheap popularity or administrative ease," he said.

He regretted that a political party, which claimed to be "Islampasand" in its actions and professions was master-minding this agitation.

He recalled that the students unions were banned in NWFP in April last year, following violent incidents in Peshwar's Islamic and Medical Colleges and said that the decision was taken at the appropriate time, in keeping with the wishes of the people. Teachers, parents and a predominant majority of students, had heaved a sigh of relief, which was manfiested by the fact that there was no reaction to it nor was there any demand for reversal of the decision.

The torrent of agitation had, therefore, proved that the students were being made a tool, he said.

Gen Fazle Haq insisted that the deplorable state of affairs at the educational institutions was due to "escapist tendencies" on the part of the elders, and noted that the students who were inexperienced could easily be exploited.

He, therefore, made an impassioned appeal for keeping the students aloof from political or selfish motives.

The governor also expressed satisfaction over the general law and order situation in the province and said that the movement of the self-styled MRD had died its natural death. The fact that the NWFP had rejected this self-styled movement manifested the political maturity of the people here, he said. — APP

Abdul Wali Khan Blames U.S. for Ban on Parties

GF221051 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 22 Mar 84 p 22

[By correspondent]

[Text] Islamabad — A top opposition leader Abdul Wali Khan has alleged that the United States is opposed to the existence of political parties and restoration of democracy in Pakistan claiming that he has documentary evidence to prove his contention.

Mr Wali Khan said the US administration firmly believed that a democratic revival in Pakistan would jeopardise its interests in this part of the world.

Speaking at two different gatherings in Swabi Tehsil of the Frontier Province yesterday, Mr Wali Khan said the move to eliminate political parties was motivated not by any Islamic compulsion but in deference to the wishes of the U.S. Administration.

The Pakhtoon leader criticised Pakistan's foreign policy and thought the country was being pushed into superpower conflict. He called for direct dialogue with the Afghan Government to resolve the Afghan issue and alleged that Afghan refugees were being dragged into Pakistan politics.

Meanwhile, according to a report from Karachi, the movements of Baluch leader and president of the Pakistan National Party, Mir Ghaus Bakhsh Bizenjo, have been restricted to a sub-division of Khuzdar District in Baluchistan. Mr Bizenjo was released a few days back after seven months of detention.

MRD Leader Says Struggle Will Continue

GF230709 Karachi DAWN in English 19 Mar 84 p 2

[Text] Quetta, March 18 — Malik Haider Usman, additional secretary general of the defunct Tehrik-i-Istiqlal, has said that struggle launched by the MRD was not over and added that second round of the movement for the restoration of democracy would, in all probability, start from Punjab during the next six months.

The first round of the MRD campaign, he said, was conducted according to programme and had ended with achievement of desired results.

The defunct Tehrik-i-Istiqlal leader told newsmen in Quetta on Sunday that there was hundred percent participation of political workers in the province of Punjab who offered themselves to court arrests on the call of the MRD. It was, he said, a wrong impression that Punjab, in any way, lagged behind in the movement.

Malik Haider Usman, in reply to a question, said that it was up to the Central Council of the MRD to decide about entering into a broad-based alliance among all political parties in the country. He, however, stated that personally he favoured united efforts towards the restoration of democracy.

He said the country, at the present juncture, was faced with a critical situation and added that without a popularly-elected government, the problems could not be solved.

He told a questioner that his party stood for the restoration of the 1973 Constitution and holding of elections on party basis. He said that only the first amendment regarding the Ahmadiyya [sect declared infidel] community should be retained in the Constitution and about other amendments carried out after 1977 the decision should be left with the elected parliament.

The additional secretary-general of the defunct Tehrik-i-Istiqlal, in reply to a question about the Afghanistan issue, said that his party stood for withdrawal of Soviet troops, the right of the Afghan people to choose their own government and the return of the Afghan refugees to their homes.

Commentary Discusses Nuclear Development Program

BK230907 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1715 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Commentary by Fazal Qureshi]

[Text] Pakistan has made impressive strides in the fields of research and development of nuclear energy. Pakistani nuclear scientists have proved to the world that they are second to none. As a result of this, Pakistan's image in the world has improved and it is now regarded as one of the fast developing nations of the Third World. But this achievement, which is totally devoted to the development of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, has become the target of vicious attacks by anti-Islamic and Zionist elements throughout the world. The idea of a Muslim country becoming strong and self-reliant is unpalatable to these anti-Pakistan, anti-Islamic elements, and they have launched a persistent campaign of vilification of Pakistan on this account.

There have been reports of a so-called Islamic bomb being developed by Pakistan. In order to exploit feelings against the nuclear proliferation existing in some countries of Europe, especially in the United States and Canada, intelligence agencies of anti-Islamic countries and Israel have joined hands to forge documents and other (? evidences) in a futile attempt to convince the American public opinion that Pakistan's nuclear research program is devoted to the manufacturing of an atom bomb. [Words indistinct] even those countries, who themselves are openly manufacturing nuclear bombs and have exploded their peaceful bombs, are in the forefront of [words indistinct].

This campaign has continued against Pakistan unabated even though Pakistan has at the highest level repeatedly denied allegations about an Islamic bomb. President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Pakistan's foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, have reiterated at national and international forums again and again that Pakistan has no intention whatsoever of manufacturing an atom bomb. Pakistan's position is most unambiguous, clear, and straightforward. It needs nuclear energy for the generation of power to meet the ever increasing needs of its growing economy. For this purpose, it is in the process of establishing nuclear power plants throughout the [word indistinct].

At the same time, it has also offered to open its nuclear facilities to international inspections, if other countries, particularly those in Pakistan's neighborhood, also allow international inspection of their facilities. Pakistan's honest and straightforward stand has not dampened the (?quest) of the enemy, but it has definitely convinced the (?Muslim) world opinion about aims of Pakistan's nuclear program. This was among the [words indistinct] from the interview of UN Development Program representative in Pakistan, Mr (Himalaya H. Rana), who said that the United Nations is willing to provide assistance to Pakistan in nuclear energy through the International Atomic Energy Agency. In the interview published in newspapers today, he said that the Government of Pakistan has sufficient talent and technical knowhow in this particular field. Mr (Rana) expressed deep satisfaction with the utilization of the UN funds by the Pakistani authorities. Pakistan, he said, possesses talents. They do not have any problem in the execution of nuclear program. The fact that the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency are ready to help Pakistan in its nuclear research and development is sufficient proof to show that the United Nations accepts Pakistan's stance that its nuclear research programs are devoted to peaceful purposes, and the few more countries, like the United States, have also accepted the peaceful Pakistan (?stand) on the subject. Under these circumstances, if the propaganda campaigns against Pakistan's nuclear research continue, it is to note that those behind it are not looking for (?truth), but are merely out to keep Muslim countries weak and dependent.

MASHRIQ Comments on Nuclear Program

GF211731 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 6 Mar 84 p 3

[Editorial: "Pakistan's Peaceful Nuclear Program"]

[Text] After Dr Hans Blix, the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], had inspected the various nuclear energy centers in Pakistan, he openly acknowledged that in order to meet its growing energy needs, Pakistan needs nuclear power plants. The progress which Pakistan has made in the field of nuclear technology qualifies it to set up nuclear power plants. In other areas as well Pakistan has gained expertise and capability in the use of nuclear energy. After his 5-day tour of Pakistan, he said that he had inspected the Tarbela Dam and had come to the conclusion that Pakistan's energy needs cannot be met by the power plants run by hydroelectricity and coal, and therefore, Pakistan requires a large number of nuclear power plants.

Pakistan has repeatedly tried to convince the world that it was using nuclear technology to overcome its energy crisis and that it intends to use nuclear technology only for peaceful purposes. Now the director general of the IAEA has acknowledged that Pakistan's needs were genuine. Pakistan has not been able to meet its energy needs in spite of using all its traditional resources and Pakistan has to import 87 percent of its energy requirements, for which it has to expand a major portion of its foreign exchange earnings.

It was on this account that Pakistan turned its attention to nuclear technology, but the world raised objections without any justification. All nuclear installations in Pakistan are under the supervision of the IAEA and Pakistan has accepted all safeguards required by the IAEA. The IAEA has never had any complaint against Pakistan. The IAEA only considers those developing countries which are committed to the peaceful use of nuclear technology and which are capable of and have the expertise to operate such complicated and advanced equipment. Dr Hans Blix, after he had inspected the Karachi nuclear power plant, the atomic centers at Faisalabad and Peshawar which have been set up for agricultural purposes, the atomic center at Lahore set up for the rural area section projects, and the centers set up for medical treatment through nuclear energy, acknowledged that Pakistan has gained enviable expertise in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and that it has a large force of scientists and experts who could use nuclear energy in different sectors. In other words, Pakistan has fulfilled the condition laid down by the IAEA that the use of nuclear energy by Pakistan is safe in every respect.

In spite of all this, when some circles protest against the Pakistan peaceful nuclear program, it causes a good deal of pain to the people of Pakistan. The whole world knows that Israel, South Africa, and India have already gained the capability of producing nuclear weapons. India years ago tested a "peaceful" nuclear device. Although Dr Hans Blix said that no testing of a nuclear device could be considered peaceful, yet nobody has complained about India's nuclear program. On the contrary, some Western powers are supplying India wilh all the materials needed to enable it to expand its nuclear program. We think it now is time that all propaganda against Pakistan's nuclear program cease. If no developed country is ready to help Pakistan in its peaceful nuclear program, it should at least abstain from putting difficulties in the way of this program. With the grace of God, Pakistan has been able to produce nuclear scientists and experts in such large numbers that it no longer needs any help in going ahead with its peaceful nuclear program. Pakistani scientists have developed a unique technique to enrich uranium which is far better than the techniques of some other countries. However, the president of Pakistan has explained in detail that Pakistan will not use this technique to make an atom bomb.

Iranian Students Stage Protest in Lahore

GF230711 Karachi DAWN in English 19 Mar 84 p 14

[Text] Lahore, March 18 — The Anjuman-i-Islami of Iranian Students here staged a protest demonstration on Sunday against the use of chemical weapons by Iraqi forces in the war against Iran.

The Iranian students were also distributing pamphlets carrying their views against the Iraqi Government.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,673

LD221748 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,673 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] During the past 24 hours, the blasphemy-fighting combatants of Islam held the initiative and enjoyed combat power superiority in the northwestern operational zone. They defended their positions by opening heavy fire on the troops and fortifications of the enemy, inflicting effective losses and casualties on the Saddamist forces.

Sporadic exchanges of fire were continuing in the western operational zone. The fire of our combative units foiled the enemy's patrol and observation activities and disrupted his construction operations. Furthermore, they opened fire on the supply axes opposite (Dasht-e Zahab) and Qasr-e Shirin and damaged enemy vehicles.

Exchanges of fire were also continuing in the southern operational zone. They were more intense in the areas from the west of Kushk to Talayah. In an area west of the Arvand Rud, our combatants destroyed more than 30 enemy slit trenches, foxholes, and observation posts and set fire to one base of the Saddamist forces. In this region, the enemy suffered at least 50 killed or wounded.

The cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr yesterday came under the enemy's heavy weapons fire. In Abadan, nine houses and city installations were damaged.

Iraqi Plane Downed in Khaybar Area 23 March

LD231102 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] The Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, joint operations center of the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces and the Revolutionary Guards Corps, has announced: The powerful fire of the fast-flying fighter aircraft and the air defense of the Islamic Republic of Iran brought down another raiding fighter aircraft of the enemy in the Khaybar operational zone this morning.

Citizens Mark New Year by Visiting War Wounded

LD221803 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 22, IRNA — The Muslim people of Tehran and all other cities and towns celebrated the first day of the new year (began March 21) by visiting the wounded of the Iraqi imposed war, families of martyrs and those missing in action.

During their visits they gave flowers and other special presents as gifts and prayed for the victory of the Islamic forces and the return of those missing.

In Tehran many government officials including ministers visited the wounded combatants at hospitals and clinics and prayed for their recovery.

Reports from other provincial towns and cities said people held similar visits.

Ali Shahsavan told IRNA during his visit with a group of other people at a hospital here that he had congratulated the wounded combatants on the new year and renewed his allegiance to Imam Khomeyni and participation in the war until final victory.

While giving flowers to the wounded Islamic combatants, Ali Zandi, another visitor, said he witnessed the spirit of sacrifice and resistance in the courageous children of the Islamic revolution which was uncomparable to what he had heard.

Ali Solaimani, who visited some families of the martyrs said he felt that as long as people kept their resistant spirit, the United States and its agents should certainly be worried about their future.

One of the wounded combatants, Abdollah Asgari, thanked all visitors for their kindness and affection and while he looked gratified, he prayed for the long life of Imam Khomeyni "who is the cause for the people's unbreakable solidarity."

Iraq Deports 'Hundreds' Across Border

LD221821 Tehran IRNA in English 1755 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Bakhtaran, march 22, IRNA — On the dawn of the first day of the new Iranian year yesterday, the Iraqi regime deported hundreds of women, children and men on foot across the western borders of Iran.

The Islamic revolution's guards stationed in the Darband-i Khan region of Iraq rushed to help the deportees who had been forced to walk in the mountainous regions of the west to Iran.

As of 20:00 hours (local time), more than 700 deported Iraqis crossed the border and then taken with vehicles to Javanrud, about 80 km west of here.

Some of the Iraqis have been taken to hospitals for treatment of injuries incurred during their deportation.

The governor general of the province has ordered the formation of an emergency relief committee comprised of the district governor's office, Islamic revolution's guards, the Red Crescent Society, the Gendarmerie as well as some other organs.

The Iraqi regime has many time deported Muslim Iraqi people before in large groups. The spokesman for the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim, estimated in an interview recently that there were 200,000 Iraqi refugees in the Islamic Republic who had been deported after the revolution.

Meanwhile, in battle action, 11 Iraqi soldiers were killed in the past 24 hours in the Sumar region of Bakhtaran warfronts. One

heavy machinegun position and another enemy fortification was also destroyed in the region.

SAIRI Describes Forced Draft in Iraq

GF210614 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI] announced in a statement that according to reports coming out of Iraq, the security forces of the regime ruling Iraq started an extensive operation last month to arrest the people of the city of Musil and its environs in order to send them to the fronts of the imposed war. Eyewitnesses have reported that the action was against individuals of all ages and therefore it created concern among the people of the area.

In another incident, a Kurdish peshmarga threw a couple of hand grenades at a military vehicle in As-Sulaymaniyah, which resulted in the annihilation of four Saddamist mercenaries and the wounding of another seven. According to the same report, 14 Iraqi soldiers, along with all their weapons, defected to the Muslim Kurdish revolutionaries. They reported that mercenaries of Saddam's regime had encircled their base to forcibly send them to the fronts of the imposed war.

Reportage on Iraqi Revolutionaries' Operations

GF180840 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] Three troops belonging to the regime that is imposed on Iraq were killed or wounded near the residential quarters of those in charge of the Saddamist regime's security in Mawsil last week as a result of the explosion of a bomb set up by the Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries. Last week, too, the Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries attacked the forces of the regime that is imposed on Iraq at the (Sarfand) post, killed or wounded 30 of them, and heavily damaged the post whose guard building was completely destroyed. Incoming reports from Baghdad say that a number of Iraqi officers and soldiers have joined the Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries.

Attack on Battalion Headquarters

GF181945 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] In an operation in the Shaykhan region last week, the Muslim Iraqi revolutionaries attacked the headquarters of the battalion of the forces of the ruling regime in Iraq and observation posts. They damaged the battalion headquarters and destroyed two of the Saddamist forces' posts.

In another operation, the Muslim Iraqi revolutionaries attacked a group of Saddam regime forces in Khanaqin and inflicted losses in life and equipment.

In earlier clashes in Al-Basrah between the Muslim Iraqi revolutionaries and the forces of the regime ruling Iraq, a number of Saddamists were killed, including one Army leader. The Muslim revolutionaries captured 10 members of Saddam's forces.

During operations carried out in northern Iraq, the Muslim Iraqi revolutionaries attacked a unit of the forces of the ruling regime in Iraq, destroyed a vehicle, and killed or wounded five Saddamists.

Reports say that a big group of Iraqi soldiers, farmers, and tribal members joined the Muslim Iraqi revolutionaries to fight the Saddamist regime.

78 Attacks in 2 Months

LD212124 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report from Ahvaz, Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries launched 78 attacks against the Saddam regime in the past 2 months. According to this report, during various operations in the same period, a total of 244 Saddamist mercenaries were killed, 122 were wounded, and 120 vehicles and 3 APC's were destroyed.

These operations mostly took place in Iraq's northern regions, particularly in the cities of Zakhu, ('Imadiyah), (Duhok), Shaykhan, (Mir Kosur), (Salahaddin), (Shanah Dari), Khurmal, Sayyid Sadiq, Halabjah, and (Shahrud). In the course of these operations, the Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries captured vast quantities of weapons and ammunition and six agents of the Saddam regime, two of which were seen to be foreign specialists.

According to this report, in the city of As-Sulaymaniyah the Saddam regime recently executed 25 soldiers who refused to fight against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Only three of these have so far been named.

Afghan Revolutionaries' Successes Reported

LD222119 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] According to reports coming from Kabul, one tank of the occupation forces was destroyed and all its occupants were killed when it hit a mine planted by Afghan Muslim revolutionaries in Sangbar region north of Shindand airbase.

According to an IRNA report, in an attack on the Lashkargah airbase, carried out last night, Afghan Muslim revolutionaries, while destroying three Soviet fighters, succeeded in killing a number of government and occupation forces.

In the meantime, according to a report by a Karachi paper, the forces of the Babrak Karmal regime the night before last shelled the positions of Afghan Muslim revolutionaries stationed close to the Baluchistan-Pakistan border. As a result of this attack, eight artillery shells hit the Pakistani border town of Chaman, damaging a number of residential buildings near the railway station.

According to the same report, four Afghan Government soldiers, bringing along their arms, joined the ranks of the Muslim revolutionaries during the past week.

Friday Prayer Leaders Seminar Held

LD181537 Tehran IRNA in English 1524 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] Sanandaj, March 18, IRNA — The special representative of Imam Khomeyni to the western part of the country, Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi, said here today that the unity between Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims has dealt a crushing blow on imperialists.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi who was speaking in the second day of the seminar of the Friday prayers leaders of the Kordestan and West Azarbayjan province, opened here Saturday, added that all Iranians should keep in mind that the Islamic revolution of Iran had set an example for the world Muslims.

Therefore, attempts should be made for further advancement of the Islamic revolution of Iran and implementation of the Islamic principles.

Prime Minister Outlines Tasks for New Year

LD221746 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Esfahan, March 22, IRNA — Agriculture would be the top concern of the government in the year 1363 (began March 22), Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said here today.

Speaking before his departure to the capital, the prime minister said greater steps should be taken in the agricultural field compared to last year.

He also expressed hope that the land ownership issue would be finally resolved in the Majlis.

Mr. Musavi said the full implementation of Islamic banking was also an important task ahead of the government this year.

He hoped the Islamic forces would reach final victory this year and called on the people to remain present in all social arenas, especially in the upcoming Majlis elections.

The premier had participated in funeral proceedings for the martyred combatants in Najafabad and Khomeyni Shahr during his visit to Esfahan Province.

About 800 Candidates Register for Majlis Elections

LD221625 Tehran IRNA in English 1611 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 22, IRNA — About 800 men and women have registered as candidates for the Majlis elections at governor's offices and district governor's offices throughout the Islamic republic up to Wednesday afternoon, an Interior Ministry official said.

Mr. Mostafa Tehrani, the Interior Ministry's director of election affairs, told IRNA those who had signed up included those from five war-stricken cities as well as religious minorities. He expected the registration process would reach a peak during Friday and Saturday — the last two days before the end of the official registration period.

Elections for the 270-member Majlis will take place on April 15 and the second term of the Majlis will officially open on May 28 with at least two thirds of the representatives present.

Tehrani said all governor generals, governors and district governors will work during the new year holiday period on the orders of the Interior Ministry in order to supervise the registrations.

He said so far there had been no problems and everything was moving ahead as planned.

After the end of the registrations at the official time on Saturday, the candidates would be prelimarily checked for their qualifications by the local constituency committee, then sent to the Interior Ministry for a second check by a five-member special committee and then sent to the Council of Guardians for final decision, he said.

Tehrani added that after the announcement of the qualified candidates by the Interior Ministry, the candidates would be allowed to begin their campaign 24 hours before election day on April 15.

April 15 coincides with the birthday of Imam Ali (A.S.), the first imam of the Shi'ites.

Tudeh Urges Voting Against List of Candidates

TA201612 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Unattributed commentary: "Seal of Invalidity on Foreheads of Islamic Republic of Iran's Rulers"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: To give so-called legitimacy to its despotic and tyrannical rule, the Islamic regime is engaged in preparations for elections for the second term of the Islamic Majlis.

In connection with preparations for these elections, the Central Committees of the Iranian Tudeh Party and the Feda'iyan-e Khalq Organization of Iran — Majority — have issued a joint statement. The statement exposes all the government's antipeople and counterrevolutionary actions which have resulted in the trampling of all the gains of our homeland's toiling people. It adds: At a time when poverty, unemployment, homelessness, inflation, high prices, hoarding, tyrannical oppression, corruption, bribery, and embezzlement of the nation's wealth are increasing, a handful of major capitalists from the bazaar — who have been called by leaders of the Islamic Republic the foundation of the revolution — are the only ones who have benefited from the revolution.

The joint statement exposes the shift to the right of the Islamic Government and its adherence to Ronald Reagan's anticom

munism policy and its positioning in the anti-Soviet front which has caused the straining of relations between the two neighboring countries. With regard to the rulers' obstinacy and stubbornness in prolonging the war, it says: The government and the Majlis, under the control of the ruling party — the Islamic Republic Party — are the greatest proponents of the continuation of the destructive and futile war which so far has led to the annihilation of hundreds of thousands of children of workers and peasants or has returned them to society maimed and wounded.

Islamic Republic leaders who are determined to place the seats of the true representatives of the people in the upcoming Majlis elections at the disposal of major capitalists, large landlords, and owners of real estate are the main initiators of the slogan "War, war until victory."

In their joint statement, the Central Committees of the Iranian Tudeh Party and the Feda'iyan-e Khalq Organization of Iran — Majority — stressed: The regime, after making the activity of all national, progressive, and anti-imperialist parties, including the Iranian Tudeh Party, the Feda'iyan-e Khalq Organization of Iran — Majority — the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization of Iran, and other revolutionary organizations illegal, is now preparing itself, through the weapon of threats and intimidation and by abusing pure religious beliefs as well as by resorting to cheating and changing the ballot boxes, to depict the imposed and appointed list as an electoral list.

In view of these factors both Central Committees have jointly reached the conclusion that to protest the terror and repression prevailing in our country, as well as the violation of the most elementary democratic rights and freedoms, they will call on the workers to vote against the list of candidates presented by institutions affiliated with the rulers of the Islamic Republic or with organizations connected with them.

In conclusion, regarding the elections for the second term of the Islamic Majlis, the joint statement by the Central Committees of the Iranian Tudeh Party and the Feda'iyan-e Khalq Organization of Iran — Majority — says: Voting against the list of candidates presented by organizations affiliated with rulers of the Islamic Republic will mean the rejection of the Islamic Republic's reactionary policies, putting an end to the Iran-Iraq war and to the war of fratricide in Kordestan, demanding the release of scores of thousands of innocent human beings who are in captivity, putting an end to kangaroo trials and the execution of patriots, expelling the agents of imperialism and reaction from the government, and finally the prior rejection of reactionary and antipeople laws which they intend to draft and complete during the second term of the Islamic Majlis.

There should be no doubt that the million-strong masses of our homeland's toilers, who have come to well understand the real antipeople and reactionary nature of the Islamic Government's leaders, will reject the regime's so-called electoral shows and, by voting against the list, will stamp the seal of invalidity on the foreheads of the Islamic Republic of Iran's rulers.

NVOI Assails 'Rapprochement' With Turkey

TA152004 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Unattributed commentary: "Mr Rafsanjani Is Lifting Veils"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: A few days ago, Mr Rafsanjani, Majlis speaker and one of the Islamic Government's senior figures, in a meeting with Turkey's foreign minister frankly said that Iran and Turkey have a complete identity of views on almost all issues. He then expanded on this, mentioning Pakistan: Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan collectively can have a great role in the region.

In the view of Mr Rafsanjani, the role that these three so-called Islamic countries should have in the region is resistance against the threat of communism. During his entire talk with the foreign minister of Turkey, Mr Rafsanjani mentioned America only once and that in connection with Iraq's attack on Iran 3 and 1/2 years ago. As usual, here too, he placed the Soviet Union first and America second.

Concerning the Soviet Union's attitude and relationship to the issue of the Iran-Iraq war, it is no secret to anyone that from the very first day of the war's outbreak, the Soviet Union opposed and continues to oppose this fratricide — which has achieved and is achieving nothing for the people of Iran and Iraq except death and devastation, as well as aggravation of tension in the region and a pretext for the military presence of international imperialism headed by America — and has exerted and continues to exert all its might to end this futile fratricide between the fraternal nations of Iran and Iraq.

International imperialism and its Iranian agents, by distorting facts, can deny the consistent and indefatigable efforts of the Soviet Union to ease international tensions, to alleviate the danger of a nuclear war, and to establish a lasting peace in the entire world, including the Middle East, which stems from the Soviet Union's socialist nature. They can refer to a bright day as dark night. Mr Rafsanjani and other leaders of the Islamic regime also can forget Ayatollah Khomeyni's statement, made a long time ago, to the effect that the Soviet Union is made an issue so that America will be negated, and they can continue with their anti-Sovietism. However, the deceitful and hypocritical clergy cannot deny the fact that the Soviet Government at least knows what is beneficial or detrimental to its country and does not work to the detriment of its own country.

Now let us see, apart from damage, what the war between Iran and Iraq entails for the Soviet Union. International imperialism, headed by America, is striving with the utmost power, despite the interests of all nations, to deploy its deadly nuclear weapons all over the world — from Japan to Britain — in areas that are in proximity to the Soviet Union, and to expand its military and war bases as well as its military presence. Of course, it loses no opportunity to draw the world to the brink of a nuclear war that will eradicate mankind by raising pretexts and through dema

goguery. The Iran-Iraq war and the stupid, or to be more precise, treacherous bragging and bluster by the leaders of the Islamic regime with regard to blocking the Hormuz waterway provided the best pretext to the international imperialists, headed by America, to bring their gigantic ships, warplanes, and deadly nuclear weapons to the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf regions, in order to safeguard their so-called vital interests. What sane person believes that the Soviet Government is benefiting from this situation and wants anything but an immediate end to this destructive and devastating war and the establishment of peace in this region?

Of course, the leaders of the Islamic Government are aware of all these facts, yet despite this they are striving to devise a pretext to justify their inclination toward international imperialism and safeguarding the plundering interests of exploiting classes and strata and domestic parasites.

Now, let us discuss the issue of the Iranian regime's rapprochement with Turkey's coupist regime. Everyone is aware of the fact that after the military coup in Turkey several years ago, and the coming to power of a military dictatorship in that country, Ayatollah Khomeyni, the highest figure in the leadership and the clerical rule, called Turkey's coupists and military dictators U.S. agents and lackeys, and the foes of Islam and Muslims. Ayatollah Khomeyni called America the great satan and enemy No 1 of Iran, Islam, and the Muslims. What development occurred during these 3-4 years that now Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran have identical views on almost all issues? Has the nature of Turkey's military dictatorship changed, and is it struggling against America instead of being its lackey? Has Turkey withdrawn from NATO — this warmongering and aggressive imperialist pact? Or is it that America has changed its nature and has been transformed from the great satan and enemy No 1 of Iran and Islam into an angel of mercy for Iranians and Muslims? No, neither one has changed its nature the slightest bit. They remain as they were.

Instead,it is the leaders of this Islamic Government of Iran, who by a 180-degree turn and by killing and massacring true revolutionaries and patriots, and by assassinating a number of Islamic figures who possessed a popular and anti-imperialist mentality and tendency, have now sought the friendship of amassers of wealth and international imperialism, headed by America.

The statement several weeks ago of Mr Rafsanjani, in which he termed the abrogation of the agreements — worth billions — for the purchase of arms from America as treason and called for their renewal, as well as his remarks in the meeting with Turkey's foreign minister about the roles of Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey against the so-called threat of communism, and the deeds and expressions of other leaders of the Islamic regime, are evidence that these three dictatorial antipeople regimes want, with the aid and leadership of America and Britain, to breath an Islamic life into Reza Shah's S'adabad pact and Mohammad Reza Shah's CENTO, and to implement the plans of America and Britain and other imperialist countries under the veil of Islam.

However, neither is the Iran of today the Iran of the era of Reza Shah and Mohammad Reza Shah nor is the world of today the world of that era. The political awareness of the class intelligence of the region's people, particularly of the revolutionary people of our homeland Iran, has reached such a stage that they will not allow the treacheries of the era of Reza Shah, (Nuri as-Sa'id), and Mohammad Reza Shah to be repeated.

Minister of State Discusses Oil Revenue, Budget

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[Text] Semnan, March 17 IRNA — Minister of State and head of Plan and Budget Organisation Mohammad Taqi Banki said here Friday that government's total revenues from oil and natural gas during the past 11 months amounted to 2,390 billion rials (dlrs. 27b).

Banki, who is on an inspection tour of Semnan Province in central Iran, noted that during the same period 2,220 billion rials had been expended on current payments and 970 billion rials (dlrs 11b) on development payments, showing an increase of 15 and 25 percent respectively compared to the corresponding figures last year.

Referring to the Dls 74 billion budget for the new Iranian year, (starting March 21), the plan and budget head said that one of the characteristics of the budget was to attach more attention to the self-sufficiency of companies rendering services such as the telecommunications company.

Stressing that this was one of the most revolutionary measures taken by the Majlis, Banki added that such a step would pave the way for the country's economy to become independent of oil.

He further commented on the clause No. 3 of the Budget Law and said that was a guarantee by the government for producers, or those with acceptable production proposals, to grant them bank loans.

Noting that such loans would only be granted to provinces and deprived areas in the country, the minister said that a fund of 20 billion rials (Dls. 127 m) has been allocated for the next year.

Banki, accompanied by a number of his ministry's officials, visited Tazreh mines, 40 kms from Damghan. The mine produces 800 to 900 tons of coal per day, meeting about 15 percent of the required coal for Esfahan steel mill. He later inspected Mahdi tools manufacturing plant, one of the most advanced in the Middle East, which will start operation soon.